



*State of New Jersey*

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***NJDHSS Communicable Disease Service Weekly  
Statewide Influenza Activity Summary***

**Week Ending November 11, 2005**

**Influenza level of activity: "NO ACTIVITY"**

Influenza testing performed in New Jersey by:

- ◆ The Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL)\*
- ◆ The WHO and NREVSS (National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System)\* Laboratories from September 20, 2005 to present:
  - Number of influenza A culture confirmed cases: None
  - Number of influenza B culture confirmed cases: One

This is the seventh week of the 2005-06 influenza season in New Jersey. The NJDHSS Communicable Disease Service has not been notified of any influenza outbreak or increased activity in any health care facilities, nursing homes or schools throughout the state. Four weeks ago, one of the two laboratories mentioned above reported the first culture positive influenza case of the season.

Rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) from nursing homes and emergency department visits are 0.79% and 3.96% respectively while the rate for school absenteeism is 5.00%.

Hospital laboratory surveillance for respiratory syncytial virus (often clinically indistinguishable from influenza virus infection) is within the same range as last week's figures. We expect a steady increase in both numbers as we progress into the season.

A few of the county percentage parameters showed figures well above the total average (see 11Nov05pdf Table) but should not be interpreted as an increased level of activity since the denominator of reporting entities is very small.

This week most of the schools in New Jersey were closed on Tuesday (surveillance day), therefore limiting the data collected from the entire ILI Surveillance System. The level of influenza activity in the state of New Jersey remains at a level of "NO ACTIVITY". This level of activity is comparable with the same period last season.

According to the CDC, the total influenza vaccine supply for the country based on information provided by manufacturers is expected to be between 78 million to over 80 million doses. This greatly exceeds last year's supply of 61 million doses, and would be one of the highest amounts ever provided. To date, it is estimated that the four influenza vaccine manufacturers have distributed about 64 million doses.

Sanofi Pasteur, the largest provider, has distributed 51 million of the 62 million doses they expect to provide, and has shipped vaccine to all who pre-booked vaccine. They expect to have shipped 58.5 million doses by mid-November.

The DHSS website listing the local health department and other flu clinics is now operational and is available at <http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/>. The public can get information on where flu shots are being given from the website.

Influenza virus infection itself is not a clinical or laboratory reportable disease in New Jersey according to N.J.A.C. 8:57. Accordingly, activity levels must be extrapolated from weekly monitoring activities of healthcare facilities and providers dispersed around the state.

President Bush, in a speech last week unveiled a broad plan on safeguarding America against pandemic influenza. A fact sheet from the White House regarding the President's speech can be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

\*The laboratories conduct testing of pre-season isolates and the first isolates of the season. These isolates can provide information regarding circulating strains and information necessary for the vaccine formulation for the following year's flu season. Also test results from representative samples collected during peak influenza activity late in the season, and after a major influenza outbreak, may identify new variants that are just beginning to circulate in the community, helping to inform vaccine formulations for the following year.

## References and Resources:

- To obtain previous ILI reports: <http://nj.gov/health/fluinfo/index.html>
- <http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/preventflu.shtml>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>
- <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>